

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 10 remain pending in the application. Claims 3, 7-9, 11-16, and 17-39 are withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected invention, but as being dependent from claim 1 are asserted to be allowable upon the ultimate allowance of claim 1.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Tibbetts (US 3,617,653). The applicant notes that Tibbetts is also available as a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). In either case, the applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable over Tibbetts for the reasons provided below. The applicant appreciates the illustrated depiction of how the examiner is interpreting Tibbetts to read on the pending claims and in particular “a reduced thickness portion” of the connecting portion. In particular, the Tibbetts two-piece armature assembly includes an aperture of the connection portion that is not a reduced non-zero thickness thickness portion.

Claim 1, as amended, recites among other things, a connection portion flexibly couples a first leg portion with a second leg portion spaced apart from the first leg portion. The connection portion has a reduced non-zero thickness portion that is less than a thickness of the first leg portion and a width that is greater than a width of the first leg portion. Moreover, because the connection portion has a reduced non-zero thickness portion, the reduced thickness portion cannot be an aperture or void, but must consist of a non-zero thickness of material.

In contrast, Tibbetts fails to teach or suggest the subject matter of claim 1. In the Tibbetts two-piece armature assembly, the assembly includes an armature leg 2, as a first leg portion and a U-shape armature yoke having a second leg portion, 501, 502. Each of the first leg portion and the U-shape armature yoke including the second leg portion appear to be of stock having the same thickness, and there is no teaching or suggestion otherwise. Thus, it appears that an aperture formed on a connection portion 107 of the U-shape armature yoke to allow a portion of the armature leg 2 to extend there through is considered the reduced thickness portion. The portion of the armature leg 2 is then bent to form a right angle connection portion 37 and attaches the connection portion 37 to the connection portion 107.

Since the only structure taught by Tibbets that could possibly correspond to the claimed reduced thickness portion is the aperture, claim 1, as amended, is allowable over Tibbts. An aperture has no mass or thickness. Thus, Tibbetts teaches directly away from a reduced non-zero thickness portion of the connection portion, as describes in the language of claim 1.

Therefore, Tibbetts does not disclose all of the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully asserts claim 1 is allowable over Tibbetts. Claims 2, 4-6, and 10 depend from claim 1 are also allowable at least for the same reasons.

The withdrawn claims 3, 7-9, 11-16, and 17-39 are also allowable in this application by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes that the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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